

# **COMPILATION OF SELECTED PAPERS**

PRESENTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

**“EXPLORING DESIRABLE PATHS  
OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA:  
CHANGING LIVELIHOODS,  
INTERNATIONAL  
COLLABORATIONS  
AND TRANS-DISCIPLINARY  
CHALLENGES”**

**Edited by Kobayashi Satoru**

December 2018

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## Workshop Program

**First day: 20 February 2018**

No.	Times	Titles	Speakers	Facilitators
1	08:00-08:30	Registration and exchange name cards		Team
<b>Opening Remarks</b>				
2	08:30-08:45	Agricultural education of the Royal University of Agriculture	Prof. Ngo Bunthan	Dr. Kobayashi Satoru
3	08:45-09:00	Introduction of the workshop "Exploring desirable paths of agriculture and rural development in Asia"	Assoc. Prof. Kobayashi Satoru	Dr. Sanara Hor
<b>Keynote speeches</b>				
4	09:05-09:30	Sustainable Humanosphere Studies in CSEAS, Kyoto University	Prof. Kono Yasuyuki	Dr. Borarin Buntong
5	09:30-09:55	Synergy Research and Education for Economic Development	Prof. Men Sarom	Dr. Kobayashi Satoru
	09:55-10:15	Group photo and Coffee break		

### **Session1: University's roles for contributing to society through agricultural science and rural development**

6	10:15-12:00	Extension Approach of Bangladesh Agricultural University: history and current practice	Prof. Muhammad Salim, Bangladesh Agricultural University	Chaired by Prof. Dr. Preap Visarto, Vice-Rector, Royal University of Agriculture
7		RUA's research and extension: the challenge	Dr. Buntong Borarin, RUA	
8		The history, necessity, potential and role of the community development centers of Universities in Myanmar	Dr. Nilar Aung, Yangon University	
9		Gross National Happiness Development Center and its program of the Sherubtse College, Bhutan.	Mr. Sonam Wangdi, Sherubtsue College	
		Discussion, Questions and Answers	Participants	
15	12:00-13:30	Lunch		

### **Session2: Creation/adaptation of agricultural technologies and management**

10	13:30-14:50	Conservation agriculture for soil health improvement in Cambodia	Dr. Hok Lyda, RUA	Chaired by Dr. Nawata Eiji, Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University
11		The Commercialization of Aromatic Rice in Cambodia: A Case Study of Boosting Food Production Project	Dr. Chan Phaloeun, General Directorate of Agriculture, MAFF	

12		Rice and black gram multiple cropping in Maubin, Ayeyarwady Delta	Dr. Ando Kazuo, Kyoto University	
		Discussion, Questions and Answers	Participants	
	14:50-15:10	Coffee break		
<b>Session3: Livelihoods transformation in rural communities under globalization</b>				
13	15:10-16:50	Rural urban migration and agriculture of Hinthada Township, Ayeyarwady Region	Dr. Myint Thida, Hinthada University	Chaired by Dr. Matsuda Masahiko, Ritsumeikan University
14		Migration of rural people from a village of Ayeyarwady Delta: a case study of livelihoods strategy	Mr. Okada Natsuki, Kyoto University	
15		Depopulation and abandoning of farm land in the villages of the east Bhutan	Mr. Rinchen Dorji, Sherubtse College	
16		Transboundary connectivity and Rural Development: A case study in Cambodia-Thai borderland	Dr. Kobayashi Satoru, Kyoto University	
		Discussion, Questions and Answers	Participants	
	16:50-17:30	Discussion, Questions and Answers for Session 1-3		

**Second day: 21 February 2018**

No.	Times	Titles	Speakers	Facilitators
<b>Session4: Reexamining the reality of rural development and natural resource</b>				
17	08:45-11:00	Cheroots in Myanmar: Rural Development behind the National Policy	Dr. Matsuda Masahiko	Chaired by Dr. Myint Thida, Hithada University
18		Land Resources Assessment for Agricultural Development in Cambodia	Dr. Seng Vang, CARDI	
19		Transformation of Cambodian agriculture: the role of financial institutions and land registration	Dr. Yagura Kenjiro, Hannan University	
20		Land resource management research in Ratanakiri province, Cambodia	Dr. Hor Sanara, RUA	
21		Reaffirming the necessity of an orthodox pathway based on ongoing multiple realities: A case study in a planned REDD+ pilot project area in central Cambodia	Dr. Kurashima Takayuki, Kyoto University	
		Discussion, Questions and Answers	Participants	
	11:00-13:30	Visit RUA research facility and Lunch		
<b>Session5: Participatory approach of rural development</b>				
22	13:30-15:10 15 minutes Presentation and	Practice in fields and services to rural areas by the students of faculty of regional collaboration, Kochi University.	Dr. Ichikawa Masahiro, Kochi University	Chaired by Dr. Kobayashi Satoru, Kyoto University

23	10 minutes Discussion for each	Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) by Students and Young Scholars of Bhutan in Japanese Depopulated Area: Its Implication for Challenging Global Issues.	Dr. Akamatsu Yoshio, Kyoto University	
24		Role of University in community development involvement: Revising Silk sector through provision of disease-free silkworm.	Mr. Dork Vuthy and Mr. Chap Nimol, Royap University of Phnom Penh	
25		An Observation of Rural Development in Trapeang Sankaer Fishing Community by the students of Royal University of Phnom Penh	Mr. Volin and Ms. Sothea, Royal University of Phnom Penh	
<b>Session6: Institutional improvement of research and education in agricultural science and rural development</b>				
26	15:10-15:40	Discussion 1: What is the university role supporting the societies?	Participants	
27	15:40-16:10	Discussion 2: What is the effective regulation and policy setting for the university to ensure sustainable agricultural and rural development?	Participants	
<b>Closing Remarks</b>				
	16:10-16:20	Remarks		

**Third day: 22 February 2018**

Field visit to RUA's stations in Kampong Cham Province and Tbongkhmom Province



## **Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) by Students and Young Scholars of Bhutan in Japanese Depopulated Area: Its Implication for Challenging Global Issue**

Akamatsu Yoshio\*

### **Abstract**

Depopulation is one of the biggest issues for many rural communities in Japan. Although Japanese government and local people have struggled to overcome the depopulation and relevant problems for several decades, clear solution to the problem has not been proposed yet. Recently, depopulation or rapid out-migration in rural area is starting to be observed commonly in many developing Asian countries and international cooperation would be important to cope with the problem, like a global warming. Furthermore, positive contribution to local society by higher educational institution is increasingly expected by local government and communities. Regarding this, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University and Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan has jointly carried out the exchange learning program in Japan and Bhutan to cope with the problems since 2012. This paper introduces the activities of exchange learning program in Japanese rural area and note perspective of the program.

**Key words:** *depopulation, exchange learning, community-based activities, Japanese rural area*

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## **1. Introduction**

Depopulation is a central problem confronting many rural communities in Japan. Although Japanese society achieved rapid economic growth in 1960s and 1970s, it was strongly supported by the concentration of productive-age population into the economic and industrial centers from the rural communities. Declining population and imbalanced population structure, viz. relatively few young and productive populations and many aging population, has caused a lot of problems for rural community, such as shortage of human resources, shrinking of local market and job opportunity, declination of community's autonomy, deterioration of public services, and so on.

Although depopulation has come up as a concerned issue in the end of 1960s in Japan, the same issue has started to be observed in many developing Asian countries in recent years. Bhutan is a small mountainous country located southern slope of the Himalayas, and the country had kept a distance from rapid modernization until a few decades ago. However, the mass rural-urban migration associated with recent rapid modernization is becoming intense anxiety for policymaker and researchers. Its seriousness was also expressed in National Day's address by His Majesty the King in 2016 (Bhutan Broadcasting Service 2016). The mass out-migration of young generation, especially in eastern Bhutan, has made aging population of rural community relatively high. According to the census in 2017, the aging rate (age 65 or older) of the country was 5.9%. However, the aging rate of eastern Bhutan reached 7.6% (Royal Government of Bhutan 2018). The society with an aging rate exceeding 7% is classified as an "aging society" in the definition by World Health Organization. The out-migration of young generation from rural communities comes up with the large area of uncultivated/fallow land in rural communities. The rate of uncultivated/fallow land exceeded 20% in eastern Bhutan and the reasons for uncultivation/fallow mentioned by landowners were "shortage of labour" (Royal Government of Bhutan 2018). Mechanization of farming is difficult for most of the community due to rugged topography so that population drain have directly impact on farming.

It is commonly considered that minimization of infrastructural and economic gap between urban and rural communities would be a fundamental and exclusive approach to depopulation. In fact, the government of Japan invested more than 800USD for improvement of infrastructure, school and health facilities and transportation network, and promotion of industrialization over the past four decades.

However, recent serious situation of Japanese rural area indicates that conventional approach would be not adequate for solving depopulation and we are requested to propose alternative approach for the problem. Recently, positive and visible contribution of higher educational institutions to local society is highly expected by local government and community. Especially in Bhutan, most of the Colleges are located in rural area and these Colleges have a strong advantage in contribution to rural society. Regarding this, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University and Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan started exchange learning program to challenge rural development issues, including depopulation, in Bhutan and Japan.

## **2. Participatory Learning and Action Program in rural area, Japan**

The exchange learning program has been carried out summer and winter season in Japan since 2012. Japan is well known as a one of the most developed countries in the world. On the other hand, seriousness of depopulation in rural area is not known from other Asian countries. Bhutanese students and young scholars from Sherubtse College visited Japanese rural areas through the program and carried out fieldwork by Participatory Rural Appraisal to understand current rural situations. Some groups participated in social volunteer works, such as snow removal, to understand community facing issues more deeply (Plate 1). The fieldwork was mainly conducted in two rural areas, Miyama-cho (Nantan-city) and Miyazu city in Kyoto Prefecture (Figure 1). Miyama-cho is located central part of Kyoto Prefecture and surrounded by mountains. Kita village of Miyama-cho is well remaining traditional houses with a thatched roof and its landscape attracts a lot of tourists. On the other hand, most of villages of Miyama-cho are facing depopulation and aging. Miyazu city and located in the northern part of Kyoto Prefecture and many communities are also facing serious depopulation, like Miyama-cho. In addition to fieldwork to understand current situation of depopulation, participants visited several organizations and individuals who have carried out remarkable activities for against depopulation and community revitalization. Chii Community Development Association (CCDA) in Miyama-cho is an organization addressing local problems through community-based activities. The participants visited CCDA office and received explanations on their activities and occasionally took part in CCDA's activities (Plate 2 & 3). In Miyazu, there are several regional and civic groups organized by local people to implement



community-based activities. The participants were taken to the site by the members of regional or civic groups and observed their activities with their explanation in the field. After the fieldwork, meeting or workshop involving local people was held in Miyama-cho or Miyazu to share participants' findings and impressions through the program and to enhance self-awareness of involvement in the issue.

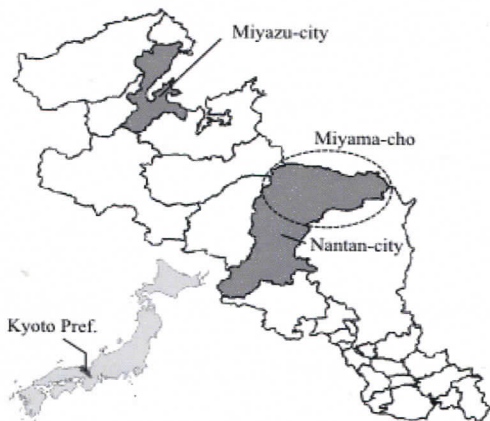


Figure.1 Location of Miyama-cho and Miyazu city, Kyoto Prefecture



Photo.1 Volunteer work (snow removal surrounding community temple, 2015)



Photo.2 Lecture given by local people, 2018



Photo.3 CCDA's activity (maintenance of roadside tree, 2014)

### 3. Situation of depopulation in Sasari village and Kigo village

In addition to field observation, some groups carried out intensive field survey in Sasari village in Miyama-cho and Kigo village in Miyazu city. Sasari village is located northeastern part of the Nantan-city and thriving in timber production from 1970s to 1980s. The basic infrastructure, such as electricity, water supply facility, paved road, internet environment and so on, is well arranged like most of other rural areas in Japan. According to statistical data, there were 36 households and 183 populations in 1960 in the village (Publication Committee of Chii village History 1998). However, the household and

population of the village was 19 and 11, respectively in 2014. The survey group found that the population of the village reached its peak in 1960 and then sharply dropped down during the period of rapid economic growth. More than 50% of population declined from 1960 to 1971. The decline rate of population was comparatively lower after 1970s but getting higher again last a decade because of natural decline of aged population and small population in the village. The population of aged 60 or older accounted for 69.6% in 2011 and most of villagers' children lived and worked in urban area of Osaka, Kyoto or Shiga Prefecture. There were four aged persons lived in the village alone in 2014. They were still active and communicated well with other villagers, but there was serious concern about who can look after them when something happens, such as emergency, when they stay alone in house or outside. Aging of the community population made it difficult to maintain individual daily physical works as well as community works, such as maintenance of irrigation and community temple.

Kigo village, Seya area of Miyazu city, is a mountainous village getting heavy snowfall in winter season. Seya area consists of five villages including Kigo village and its population declined from 1357 in 1930 to 114 in 2010 (Miyazu city office 2015). Like the case of Sasari village, there was sharp decline of the population from 1960 to 1970. The decline of the population in Seya area was attributed to not only strong economic pull factors but also push factor of natural environment, i.e. heavy snowfall in Seya area. Especially, tremendous heavy snowfall in 1963, called *Sanpachi-gousetsu*, caused extensive damage to many houses and it triggered mass out-migration from Kigo and surrounding villages in Seya area. The heavy snowfall is still serious problem for the communities. In 2016, there were five households in the village and these all families were in-migrant from urban areas. The original villagers have already migrated from the village and the most of farmland have been abandoned (Ando et al. 2016).

#### **4. Community-based activities in Miyama-cho and Miyazu city**

Besides the struggle of central and local government for depopulation and relevant problems, community people have also taken action for community revitalization with strong awareness of crises for their community. Here, author introduces two examples of community-based activity taken by *Chii-Shinkokai* in Miyama-cho and *Utsukushisa-tankentai* in Miyazu city.

i) *Chii-Shinkokai* in Miyama-cho: Chii Community Development Association (CCDA), called *Chii-Shinkokai* in Japanese, was established in 2001 to promote community-based development and revitalization for community by community people. Various activities have been planned and practiced by CCDA involving community people and relevant organizations. Community events, such as sports festivals, autumn harvest festival and cultural exhibition, have been held to provide fun for local people and strengthen community bond. The village beautification program by local women was implemented to encourage women's participation in the community revitalization and utilize women's high sense for beautification. On the other hand, some events, such as sweetfish festival, exchange program of school kids and green tourism programs, have been organized to encourage the interaction with urban people and let urban people know about the good points of living rural community and richness of natural environment (Plate 4). To cope with increase of human-wildlife conflict, zoning project between residential and forest area was implemented. Furthermore, CCDA has provided a hands-on learning opportunity for university students through volunteer work and interaction program in the aging and depopulated communities of Chii area. Some Bhutanese groups also participated in the activities in winter and shared their experiences and impressions with university students. Besides planning and practicing of revitalization activities, CCDA office also provides some local governmental services, such as issue of residency certificate and collection of insurance fee. The central office of Nantan-city is located about an hour's drive from Chii area by car and representative service of the local government office by CCDA have relieved inconvenient accessibility to public services for the community people.

ii) *Utsukushisa-tankentai* in Miyazu city: The local expeditionary group called *Utsukushisa-tankentai* is one of the civic groups in Miyazu city. The group was established in 2001 by Miyazu citizens and they dealt with local revitalization through re-discovery and re-evaluation of local treasure, means local culture, traditions, knowledges, natural resources, and so on. Their main activity was visit to field or community and re-discover local endemism which should be evaluated and handed down to next generations. Miyazu city consists of many mountainous and coastal villages, and the group members visited almost all of the villages and surroundings. The group members were guided by local people and they carefully listened to their story about their life and village history. After the field expedition, their findings were published as a local newsletter six or seven times a year (Plate 5). The newsletters were

distributed to every household in Miyazu city. According to the editor of the newsletter, there were big and positive responses from the readers. In addition to the publication of newsletter, *Utsukushisa-tankentai* published several booklets and books related to local history, culture, vegetation and so on. The book, titled *Miyazu Shin-fudoki*, is a collection of articles written on local culture, histories, traditions, landscapes, and life histories from the view point of localites. In addition to field expeditions and publications, the members engaged in volunteer works to keep the landscape clean and beautiful. Unfortunately, *Utsukushisa-tankentai* has finished their activities in 2015, but their experiences and findings have passed to other groups and utilized for revitalization activities. For an example, Miyazu city established Eco-Tour Guide Group to encourage local ecotourism, and *Utsukushisa-tankentai*'s findings were used in some pages of eco-tour guidebook. Some hidden visiting spots found through expedition of *Utsukushisa-tankentai* were started to maintain by other groups or individuals as a new tourist spot to encourage local ecotourism.



Photo.4 Rural experience program of urban kids in Chii (2016)



Photo.5 Newsletters published by *Utsukushisa-tankentai*

## 5. Perspective of the Exchange Learning Program

Depopulation is a deep-rooted issue and it would be difficult to find out clear and immediate solution. However, the exchange learning program based on PLA has provided comparative view point of depopulation between Bhutan and Japan to re-think on the approach to it. Most of Bhutanese young scholars were very surprised at the gap between well-developed rural infrastructures and reality of depopulation in Japan, and one Bhutanese scholar mentioned that depopulation seems to be rooted not only in economic factors in rural area, it would be also rooted in people's mind-set to rural area and its

values. In fact, conventional approach to rural development is preferentially focused on infrastructural investment and improvement of economic condition. On the other hand, intrinsic value of rurality was kept behind. However, recent activities by CCDA and *Utsukushisa-tankaintai* are laid weight on re-evaluation of rural community and local resources rather than straightforward materialistic or economic development. This kind of approach, unexpectedly, akin to the concept of Bhutanese development, called Gross National Happiness (GNH). GNH preach on importance of holistic approach by combination of material and spiritual development to improve human welfare and happiness. CCDA and *Utsukushisa-tankaintai*'s approach to rural community would give concrete hints for implementation of GNH in practice in rural area of Bhutan. On the other hand, many questions about GNH or "happiness" were asked to Bhutanese students and scholars by Japanese local people. The concept of GNH is actually getting popular among Japanese communities. In fact, there are some local governments applying the idea of GNH to their development plans. Although the scale of the program is not so large, steady place-based exchange learning involving interaction with local people enhance participant's self-awareness of involvement in the issue and it would be connected to their new approach and action in their place for the future.

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